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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2004

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, help us to trust You more fully and to accept our responsibility to bring peace on Earth. Thank You for loving Your creation and for giving us strength for life's burdens. Thank You for protecting us in these dangerous times. And thank You also for listening to our prayers and for guiding our steps.

Lord, help each of us to see the unfinished work that is ours to complete. We lift to You our Senators. Their tasks require more than human abilities. Whisper to them words of instruction to help them find wisdom for these challenging days. Make their words fountains of life. We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE ALLEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate resumes consideration of S. 1072, the highway bill. We had a good debate on the highway bill last week. Although I know the chairman hoped we would have progressed further, I believe we remain on track to finish this week. Chairman INHOFE and his staff worked with several Senators over the weekend on possible amendments and are making good, steady progress. I appreciate the efforts of the bill managers to work through the weekend in the interest of keeping the bill moving on track. I will consult with Senator INHOFE and the Democratic leadership as we go forward, but I hope we will be prepared for a vote relative to an amendment prior to our recess for the

policy luncheons on tomorrow, and Senators should be available accordingly.

This is the last week prior to the scheduled Presidents Day recess. I will be asking for all Senators' cooperation in allowing us to work our way through various issues pertaining to the highway bill.

Again, last week was a challenging week for our Senate community in many different ways, but we are open for business and expect to continue our work throughout this week.

With regard to the closing of the Senate office buildings last week, I am pleased to announce that all the Senate office buildings are back open and fully operational this week.

MEDICARE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the recent Medicare bill we passed. Last year—this being February—President Bush and Congress made good on our promise to strengthen and expand Medicare for today's seniors and individuals with disabilities. The bill, called the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, does represent the most significant improvement to Medicare in two generations.

The reason I wish to comment on it today is that as a product of the debate and passage of this legislation, we are starting to see, even right now, impressive results.

Very simply, we said the program would give seniors better health care at lower out-of-pocket cost and give

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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